

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone discussion with Applicants' representative on October 22, 2003, during which Applicants' representative asked the Examiner to clarify the requirement in the Office Action, and the Examiner stated that the application would be allowable if Applicants amend claims 60, 67, and 77 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants propose to amend claims 60, 67, and 77 to include a recitation of a lower limit of the thickness of the under-layer. Applicants also propose to amend claim 70 to correct a typographical error, and have canceled non-elected claims 1-20, 24-25, 27-46, 49-59, 66, and 76. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 21-23, 26, 47-48, 60-65, 67-75, and 77-78 are pending.

Applicants are concurrently filing herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d), citing four documents Applicants recently received from the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application.

Applicants respectfully request the entry of the present Amendment, the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement, and the timely allowance of pending claims 21-23, 26, 47-48, 60-65, 67-75, and 77-78.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully Submitted,

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